(c) The above mentioned facilities are applicable to the public sector undertakings as well.

Theft in the Air India's strong room at Palam

2672. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 5th August, 1985 wherein it has been reported that about 120 electronic equipments such as VCRs, two-in-ones, stereos, amplifiers and calculators have been stolen from the Air India's strong room in the international arrival hall at the Palam air terminal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A part of the premises of the Customs areas and Air India's strong room have a common false ceiling. Following a complaint by Customs authorities 83 empty cartons were found above the false ceiling. The matter is under investigation by the Security Department of Air India.

Air India's records for the past one year show that all the mishandled baggage lodged in the strong room was either claimed by the passengers or handed over to the Customs after a period of 48 hours, in acccordance with the established procedure. No package has been found missing.

Power Generation by the Nuclear Reactors

2673. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency has in a recent study stated that power generation by nuclear reactors would be far more economical than oil based or coal based power generation on a global basis;

(b) if so, the details of the study made by the Agency in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the power generated by nuclear reactors is said to be cheaper in most cases than coal or oil based plants in United States, Canada, Japan and France;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the reaction of the Government of India and the efforts Government are making in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT; ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The study shows that the economic advantage of nuclear power plants over oil-fired plants is overwhelming, and as compared to coal-fired plants Nuclear plants are competitive or cheaper.

(c) and (d) The comparative costs per kilowatt—hour according to the study are :

	Nuclear	Coal
Canada (Mills) .	17.1	26.1
Japan (US cents) .	4.8	6.0
France (Centimes) .	22.8	32.0

In the US, the study concluded that nuclear and coal-fired generation costs are close in most regions, but favour nuclear power where coal must be transported over long distances.

(e) Government plan to instal 10,000 MW of Nuclear power generating capacity in India by the year 2000 A.D.